needy persons with disabilities through their regional centers and composite rehabilitation camps to provide various clinical therapeutic services, aids and appliances as well as for awareness generation on prevention, identification of disabilities etc.

Welfare of older persons

534. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has became the second largest country in the world in respect of population of older persons, as per Census 2001 the total population of older persons in India are 7,66,22,321, many of them are residing in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details of schemes in operation in the country;

(c) whether any special attention is being given to older women in the rural areas, particularly in the tribal areas; and

(d) whether Government have any policy specifically to take care of these elderly women in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government of India is providing financial assistance to the Non-Govemmental Organisations under two grant-in-aid schemes for (i) maintenance of old age homes, day care centers and mobile medicare units, and (ii) assistance for the construction of old age homes/multi service centers for senior citizens. The details of the schemes including eligibility conditions, etc., are available on the Ministry's website www.socialjustice.nic.in.

In addition, monthly pension is being provided to destitute older persons by the State/UT Governments under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) for which additional central assistance is given by the Central Govemment.

(c) and (d) All the Schemes mentioned above cover older women as weH as men.